



REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Lansing Town Hall Board Room
Wednesday, September 17, 2025
6:30 PM

AGENDA

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Meeting is open to the public and streamed live on YouTube.

VIEW THE MEETING LIVE - TOWN OF LANSING YOUTUBE CHANNEL

To find our YouTube Channel - Go to www.lansingtownny.gov, click on the “YouTube” Icon (red square) located on the bottom left corner of our Home Page.

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Public Hearing**
5. **Privilege of the Floor:** Limited to 20 Minutes with a Maximum of 3 Minutes per Speaker
 - a. Optional Board Member Responses – Maximum 2 Minutes per Board Member
6. **Department Reports**
 - a. **Department of Public Works Report** – Mike Moseley
 - b. **Parks and Recreation Report** – Patrick Tyrrell
 - c. **Director of Planning Report** – John Zepko
 - d. **Town Clerk Report** - Debbie Munson
 - e. **Lansing Community Library Report** – Annie Johnson
 - f. **Lansing Youth Services Report** – Richard Alvord
 - g. **Tompkins County Legislator Report** – Mike Sigler
7. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Motion Amending Town of Lansing Employee Handbook, to Address § 802 Vacation Leave Carry-Over and Pay-Out Rules for Town Employees
 - b. Resolution to Offer the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium's Platinum PPO Plan Option Effective January 1, 2026
 - c. Resolution to Award the Bid for the Town of Lansing Zoning Update Project to Colliers Engineering & Design
 - d. Resolution Amending Organizational Resolution 25-04, Issuing of Accessible Parking Permits
 - e. Resolution Hiring Elizabeth Parker as Administrative Assistant I for the Town Clerk's Office
 - f. Resolution Approving Audit and Supervisor's Report

- [g.](#) Resolution Approving Consent Agenda

8. Motions and Resolutions

- [a.](#) Resolution Rejecting All Bids and Authorizing Re-Bidding of Town of Lansing 2025 Roof Replacement Project
- [b.](#) Resolution Authorizing Town of Lansing Supervisor to Sign Municipal Coalition Letter in Opposition to NYSDEC - Proposed Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Permit Modifications, and In Support of State Investment in Water Quality Mitigations Identified in the "Cayuga Lake Total Maximum Daily Load for Phosphorus."

9. 2026 Tentative Budget Presented by Town Clerk

10. Board Member Reports

- a. Councilperson Judy Drake
- b. Councilperson Laurie Hemmings
- c. Councilperson Christine Montague
- d. Councilperson Joseph Wetmore
- e. Supervisor Ruth Groff

11. Work Session

- a. Moratorium
- b. Trails Update
- c. Agreements with Volunteer Groups
- d. Board of Ethics Committee Questions/Suggestions

12. Executive Session if Needed

- [a.](#) Motion to Enter/Exit

13. Adjourn Meeting

- a. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons who need accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting should contact the Town Clerk's Office at 607-533-4142. Request should be made 72 hours prior to the meeting.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2025

NEW DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING:

- The Town of Lansing continues to collaborate with LeChase on the development of the new Department of Public Works (DPW) building while concurrently conducting its annual road maintenance activities.
- Crew members of the DPW completed the paving portion for the materials pad on the north side of campus. Next steps will be moving road materials to the pad as well as contractors putting up fencing.
- NT SiteCon continues to remove unsuitable soils while grading and leveling.
- Stormwater inspections continue to be underway.
- The framing and rebar for the salt barn have been inspected by the Town's Code Department and CME, and concrete footers have been poured by contractors.

ROADS:

- Paving was performed on Scofield Road, Atwater Road, Sharon Drive, East Shore Circle and Bush Lane.
- Reprofiling was performed on Wilson Road, between Conlon Road and Buck Road, as well as Snushall Road.
- Ditching and shoulder improvements were made to enhance drainage.
- Several culverts were replaced due to age.
- The road maintenance schedule is currently in progress. This involves a series of planned activities aimed at improving road conditions. The Department of Public Works sincerely appreciates the community's patience and understanding as project schedules adjust due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Roadside mowing operations have commenced to improve the line of sight for drivers. This initiative involves trimming vegetation along the roadways.
- Crew members are actively conducting sign maintenance throughout the town to ensure clear and up-to-date roadway guidance for drivers and pedestrians and replacing as needed.

WATER AND SEWER MAINTENANCE:

- The DPW used the new Vac Truck to excavate a water curb-stop, minimizing restoration and ensuring continued system reliability.
- The crew is actively engaged in performing preventive maintenance on water valves. This involves inspecting, cleaning, and testing the valves to ensure they are functioning optimally and to prevent any potential issues that could disrupt water service.

INTERMUNICIPAL:

- The Town of Newfield assisted with reprofiling of Wilson Road and Snushall Road.
- Tompkins County provided trucks to assist in paving the new DPW Materials Pad as well as provided a truck for assistance with shoulder work.
- Lansing DPW assisted Tompkins County with hot mix paving for the Conlon Road culvert project.

OFFICE:

- The Town of Lansing has been working hand in hand with the Village of Lansing and the Village of Cayuga Heights regarding the Intermunicipal Agreement for Sewer District One.

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:

- Commissioner Meeting with Bolton Point: *Responsible for passing resolutions that govern Bolton Point.*
- Engineering and Operations Meeting with Bolton Point: *Responsible for the infrastructure of the municipalities that make up Bolton Point.*
- Highway Barn Committee: *Responsible for working with architects, engineers, and construction managers on the design and development of the new Department of Public Works facility.*
- Project Review Committee (PRC): *Responsible for reviewing and financial planning for the 5-Year Plan for the Town's larger projects.*
- Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Committee (WSSC): *Responsible for evaluating proposals relating to the Town's water, sewer and stormwater. The goal is financial and engineering analysis.*
- Virtual Snow and Ice Course: *Orr, P.E., discussed why this duty is so critical and gain insights into ways to prepare for this coming winter.*
- Comptrollers Meeting in regard to Competition and Procurement.



September 2025
Town Board Report

RECREATION:

- Current programs include boys and girls flag football, small fry football, cheerleading, soccer, chess lessons, horseback riding, Watercats swimming, YogaChi, Strength and Stretch, Cardio Step, adult volleyball, and adult swim.
- Lansing Rec Cheerleaders will perform at the Lansing Elementary Back to School night on September 17th.
- We have hosted 4 Varsity Soccer games this month.
- After the recent dry spell, mowing has now resumed to normal, twice a week.
- Sobus Field is expected to be open the last week of September, and we hope to have a few football games scheduled there for October.
- Our team has painted two new accessible parking spots in the ballfield parking lot to better accommodate our guests.
- IC and Cornell Club softball teams will be using our softball field over the next couple of months.

PARKS:

- Suicide Prevention Walk was September 6th and was a huge success.
- Veteran's Watch Fire is this Friday the 19th at 7pm in Myers Park.
- As of September 1st, we are no longer charging admission or launch fees at Myers Park for the remainder of the season (Final day was Labor Day).
- Camping in Myers Park remains open until Columbus Day.
- We replaced a couple of trees in Ludlowville Park.
- We have added several new valves and boxes to our water system at Myers Park to better isolate portions in case of a leak.

TRAILS:

- NYS DOT completed the new flashing crosswalk signs to the trails/sidewalk on Auburn Road last week.

TOWN HALL/COMMUNITY CENTER:

- The RFP for the Community Center and Schoolhouse roof projects is being re-posted.
- Air conditioning at the Community Center continues to be an issue. We hope we don't have issues with the heating system.

- Internet service has been poor in the Town Hall. Spectrum was replacing the line in front of the Town Hall last week.

Thank you to our Department of Public Works for loaning equipment to our department.

I would like to thank my staff for doing a tremendous job this summer, from the programs and camps to maintenance of all our properties they have gone above and beyond in some incredibly stressful times. It does not go unrecognized by the community.

This is only a very brief overview of what the Parks & Recreation department does, if you have questions or would like to meet with me one on one, please let me know.



LANSING COMMUNITY LIBRARY UPDATE TO THE LANSING TOWN BOARD
September 2025

Submitted by Annie Johnson

1. Don't forget that if the library is closed, you still have access to Libby, Hoopla, and Kanopy!
2. The library continues to provide free delivery to Woodsedge. The library also has a mobile wireless hotspot available for check out. The Wi-Fi is not password protected. The community is welcome to park in the lot to access the Internet.
3. Learn to play American Mah Jongg every Wednesday at 10:00 am.
4. The library has an Empire Pass and a pass to the Museum of the Earth available for check out. Board games, puzzles, story time kits, and STEAM kits are also available.
5. The Library now offers free period products using an Aunt Flow dispenser. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to supply free COVID tests. We can help residents contact the USPS to get free tests in the mail.
6. Chair Yoga is offered every Monday at 10:00 am (new time!).
7. Learn T'ai Chi on Fridays at 10:30 am.
8. There is a year round book sale at the Library.
9. Story times for the month: School, buses and yellow! 9/11, Interrupting Chicken 9/18, and Stars on 9/25 - all at 10:30 am
10. Join us on 9/17 at 7 pm for "LIFE magazine and the work of Margaret Bourke White".
11. The Cookie Contest was a success, thanks to all who participated!
12. The next adult book club will be 9/16 at 7 pm; the book is "Such a Fun Age".
13. The Friends are planning the Costumes and Cocktails fundraiser on October 18th at the Sciencenter. Keep an eye out for ticket sales!

Lansing Youth Services Town Board Report September 2025

Lake Life: Lake Life kicked off our Summer Skies with a super busy week. This program was combined with youth from Newfield and the Joint Youth Commission. Daily activities included landscape art, fishing, swimming, birding, kayaking, basketball, and even a trip on the Floating Classroom! The group had regular conversations about lake health, stream health, bird migration and the importance of Myers Point in monitoring these systems. The kayaks were used daily and provided good opportunities to explore around both points. 13 youth served.

Cardboard Boat Building: Cardboard Boat Building never disappoints, and experiences are fresh every year. Using boats from the marina as inspiration, students made/built cardboard boats to test float on the final day. The group learned a lot about problem solving after testing their model boats and the results were amazing! While several boats failed, the students had lots of fun! One boat filled with supports, held three people! 11 youth served.

Iron Chef: Iron chef returned with summer with a lot of practice at Myers Park before heading to the 4-H Fair to compete in Jr. Iron Chef. The group made banana pancakes, omelets, and quesadillas. The competition went well with one Lansing team winning! This year had challenging “mystery” ingredients, cilantro and Spam. When the group wasn’t competing, they learned to make friction fires, cooked hot dogs and s’mores, and made doughnuts on the fire! 10 youth served.

RYS Summer Olympics: Back for a second year, six municipalities gathered together for lots of teambuilding and friendly competitions. Students completed a “circuit” of team building activities, and competed in a scavenger hunt, basketball, archery, ultimate frisbee and more. Swimming in the afternoons to cool down was appreciated, and participants loved the daily catered lunches! 10 youth served.

Sky’s The Limit: This every popular program was action packed. The week kicked off with a visit to the Cornell Spacecraft and Planetary Imaging Facility (SPIF) for a tour of how light is used to determine what elements are on other planets. The group also visited the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for bird watching, exploring the exhibits, and a special tour of the Ithaca International Airport. The group also visited the National Soaring Museum where they learned about the history of flight and “Sail Planes”, then it was off to Tanglewood Nature preserve to see animals and feed/observe the fish and turtles. The final day was “launch day” for rockets! 10 youth served.

Get Lost!: With this program focusing on “lost proofing” and survival skills, Hammond Hill State Forest provided ample opportunities to test a lot of these skills. The group practiced navigation off trail, how to locate a natural spring, how to make a sun compass, the importance of always being aware of your surroundings to navigate back to your starting point, what to do if you really are lost, and safety tips for being in the wilderness. On the final day, one student caught a trout (that was in a drying up pool) and cooked it on the campfire! A first for this program! 10 youth served.

Youth Employment: Youth employees were super busy this summer! Several worked with our Lansing Youth Services Summer Skies programs, which provided a full work day experience, many of whom this was their first exposure to longer days. Four assisted with the Rural Youth Services Summer Olympics, where they were critical in helping the week go super

smoothly. Youth Employees at the Lansing Library also continued their work and feedback given was that they were great at helping each other, and even coordinated the covering of most of their shifts. One new eighth grader (now in high school), who has been eager to work, will begin as a Lansing Youth Services assistant this fall.

**MOTION AMENDING TOWN OF LANSING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, TO
ADDRESS § 802 VACATION LEAVE CARRY-OVER AND PAY-OUT RULES FOR
TOWN EMPLOYEES**

MOTION M25-xx

**MOTION AMENDING TOWN OF LANSING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, TO
ADDRESS § 802 VACATION LEAVE CARRY-OVER AND PAY-OUT RULES FOR
TOWN EMPLOYEES**

Motion to approve the following amendment to § 802 of the Town of Lansing Employee Handbook, entitled “Vacation Leave”, section entitled “Carry-over”, with the effective date of such amendment deemed to be September 18, 2025, with such amended § 802 section “Carry-over”, to now be wholly replaced to read as follows:

802 Vacation Leave

Carry-over and Pay-out – Unused vacation leave, up to a maximum of forty hours, may at the option of the employee, either be carried over into a subsequent calendar year, or they may receive cash payment. Employees must declare their option on or before December 1st of each calendar year. All remaining vacation hours in excess of 40 hours will be automatically paid out on the last paycheck of the calendar year.

The Town Board may provide an exception to this rule in the event of any extraordinary unanticipated circumstances. The Town Board may refer any matter to any then existing Personnel Committee or Human Resources for recommendation. Any exception must be presented to the Town Board and approved no later than the regular December Town Board meeting.

**RESOLUTION TO OFFER THE GREATER TOMPKINS COUNTY MUNICIPAL
HEALTH INSURANCE CONSORTIUM'S PLATINUM PPO PLAN OPTION
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026**

RESOLUTION 25-XX

**RESOLUTION TO OFFER THE GREATER TOMPKINS COUNTY MUNICIPAL
HEALTH INSURANCE CONSORTIUM'S PLATINUM PPO PLAN OPTION EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 1, 2026**

WHEREAS, the Town of Lansing currently offers employee and retiree health insurance coverage through the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium;

WHEREAS, the Town of Lansing currently offers one plan option being the Consortium's "PPO 15 Plan"; and

WHEREAS, the Consortium's "Platinum PPO Plan" has been reviewed and determined to provide a comparable level of benefits to the "PPO 15 Plan"; and

WHEREAS, offering the "Platinum PPO Plan" results in savings to employees through lower cost-sharing and savings to the Town through reduced premium costs; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lansing is committed to maintaining high-quality health coverage for its employees while also ensuring responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective January 1, 2026, the Town of Lansing shall offer the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium's "Platinum PPO Plan" as a voluntary alternative enrollment option for all eligible existing employees and eligible retirees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that once an employee or retiree elects to leave the "PPO 15 Plan" and enroll in the "Platinum PPO Plan", they shall not be permitted to return to the "PPO 15 Plan" at any time thereafter; and be it further

RESOLVED, that effective January 1, 2026, all new hires of the Town of Lansing and all new enrollees to the Town health insurance, shall be enrolled in the "Platinum PPO Plan" as the sole health insurance option offered; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the New Plan Addition Form and notify the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium of the addition of the "Platinum PPO Plan" for Town employees, with the goal of transitioning all employees and retirees into the "Platinum PPO Plan" within the next three years.

**RESOLUTION TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE TOWN OF LANSING ZONING
UPDATE PROJECT TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN**

RESOLUTION 25-

**RESOLUTION TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE TOWN OF LANSING ZONING
UPDATE PROJECT TO COLLIERS ENGINEERING & DESIGN**

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, the Town of Lansing Town Board (hereinafter referred to as Town Board) intends to rewrite its zoning code to align with community values and sustainability principles, as outlined in its 2018 Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lansing accepted a Smart Growth grant from New York State Department of State with a budget of \$111,112, with a local match of ten percent (\$11,112); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lansing complied with the New York State grant requirements of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) inclusion in the bid process; and

WHEREAS, the only bid received was from Colliers Engineering & Design, with a Base Bid of \$111,000, and the Colliers team meets the MWBE grant requirements; and

WHEREAS, upon consideration of the foregoing premises and the scope and progress of the Project to date, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby

RESOLVED, that the Town Board accepts the low bidder, Colliers Engineering & Design, in the amount of \$111,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor of the Town of Lansing be authorized to sign the Notice of Award and execute all Contract Documents associated with this Contract.

RESOLUTION AMENDING ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION 25-04, ISSUING OF ACCESSIBLE PARKING PERMITS

RESOLUTION 25-

RESOLUTION AMENDING ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION 25-04, ISSUING OF ACCESSIBLE PARKING PERMITS

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, at its regular January meeting, the Town Board approved Organization Resolution 25-04 authorizing specific positions to issue accessible parking permits to town residents; and

WHEREAS, at the August 20, 2025 meeting, the Town Board approved the Civil Service Position Listing and Office Classification System for the town, as well as updated titles of the two current Information Aide positions in the Town Clerks Office, which are now titled Administrative Assistant I and Administrative Assistant III; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk is restructuring her office for efficiency and to align with the newly approved civil service position listing, and

WHEREAS, upon due deliberation thereupon, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby;

RESOLVED, that Organizational Resolution 25-04 be and hereby is wholly replaced to read as follows:

“RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Part-Time Administrative Assistant I and Full-Time Administrative Assistant III in the Clerk’s Office are authorized to issue Accessible Parking Permits.”

**RESOLUTION HIRING ELIZABETH PARKER AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I
FOR THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

RESOLUTION 25-

**RESOLUTION HIRING ELIZABETH PARKER AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I
FOR THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, to address staffing and training needs of the town, the town has a need to hire an Administrative Assistant I position in the Town Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Parker has been identified as a qualified candidate to fill such position; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk's Office has recommended that Elizabeth Parker be hired as an Administrative Assistant I in the Town Clerk's Office, so upon due consideration and deliberation by the Town of Lansing Town Board, now therefore be it RESOLVED as follows:

1. Effective September 18, 2025, Elizabeth Parker is hereby appointed as an Administrative Assistant I, with the same Town perquisites and benefits as are available to all employees of the town and to such position. This position will be in the non-competitive class under the New York Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide (NY HELPS) program. At such time as the NY HELPS program concludes, these appointments will convert to a competitive classification.
2. This appointment is a part-time appointment at 20 hours per week.
3. The hourly wage is hereby set and approved at \$19.00 per hour.
4. The probationary period for such appointment is hereby set at 52 weeks.
5. The Town Personnel Officer be and hereby is authorized to make such changes to the Town's employment and civil service rosters and file required civil service forms to place into immediate effect such changes and these resolutions, including the filing of form MSD 428, if required.

RESOLUTION APPROVING AUDIT AND SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**RESOLUTION 25-****RESOLUTION APPROVING AUDIT AND SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

The Supervisor submitted her monthly report for the month of August 2025, to all Board Members and to the Town Clerk. The Supervisor's Report was reviewed by Councilperson Joseph Wetmore. The bills were reviewed by Councilperson Judy Drake and Councilperson Joseph Wetmore. The Supervisor's Report be approved as submitted and the Bookkeeper or the Accountant is hereby authorized to pay the following bills.

CONSOLIDATED ABSTRACT # 009**TOWN OF LANSING****Abstract # 009**09/15/2025
10:39:25**Summary by Fund**

Code	Fund	Prepays	Unpays	Totals
A	GENERAL FUND TOWNWIDE	6,607.23	103,634.63	110,241.86
B	GENERAL FUND OUTSIDE VILLAGE	102.60	7,739.56	7,842.16
DA	HIGHWAY FUND TOWNWIDE		7,752.00	7,752.00
DB	HIGHWAY FUND OUTSIDE VILLAGE	169.44	553,486.15	553,655.59
HG	DPW FACILITY PROJECT	50.61	482,858.60	482,909.21
SL1-	LUDLOWVILLE LIGHTING DISTRICT	117.37		117.37
SL2-	WARREN ROAD LIGHTING DISTRICT	802.51		802.51
SL3-	LAKEWATCH LIGHTING DISTRICT	1,151.05		1,151.05
SS1-	WARREN RD SEWER	23,479.39	1,810.13	25,289.52
SS3-	CHERRY ROAD SEWER DISTRICT	24.07		24.07
SW	LANSING WATER DISTRICTS	117,312.47	7,430.17	124,742.64
TA	TRUST & AGENCY	6,781.89	68,719.04	75,500.93
Total:		156,598.63	1,233,430.28	1,390,028.91

**CONSENT AGENDA MOTIONS M25-XX – M25-XX AND RESOLUTIONS
25-XX – 25-XX**

RESOLUTION 25-XX

**CONSENT AGENDA MOTIONS M25-XX – M25-XX AND RESOLUTIONS
25-XX – 25-XX**

WHEREAS, upon due deliberation thereupon, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby

RESOLVED, that the Consent Agenda Motions **M25-XX – M25-XX** and Resolutions **25-XX – 25-XX**, are hereby approved as presented and amended, and

The question of the adoption of such proposed Consent Agenda Motions and Resolutions were duly motioned by Councilperson _____, duly seconded by Councilperson _____, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Judy Drake –

Councilperson Christine Montague –

Supervisor Ruth Groff –

Councilperson Laurie Hemmings –

Councilperson Joseph Wetmore –

Accordingly, the foregoing Motions and Resolutions were approved, carried, and duly adopted on September 17, 2025.

**RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS AND AUTHORIZING RE-BIDDING
OF TOWN OF LANSING 2025 ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

RESOLUTION 25-

**RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS AND AUTHORIZING RE-BIDDING
OF TOWN OF LANSING 2025 ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, in July 2025 the Town Engineer completed the project specifications and developed bid documents for public bidding, for the “Town of Lansing 2025 Roof Replacement Project” which consists of the replacement of the roofs of the Town’s Community Center and School House; and

WHEREAS, official notice to bidders was published in the Town’s official newspaper on July 30, 2025 with bids due on August 14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, three (3) bids were received and the low bidder submitted a formal letter to the Town Clerk withdrawing their bid due to a material and substantial mistake in their total base bid price; and

WHEREAS, one of the three bids was received by the Town Clerk after the required time to submit bids and was thus deemed rejected, and

WHEREAS, the total base bid price received from the remaining eligible bidder exceeds the funds available for this project it is recommended by the Town Engineer that all bids be rejected, which right was specifically reserved in the RFP, and that the project be re-bid through the competitive RFP process; and

WHEREAS, upon due deliberation thereupon, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby

RESOLVED, that all bids be and hereby are rejected, that the Town Engineer is directed to issue a new RFP for the re-bidding of this project.

The question of the adoption of such proposed Resolution was duly motioned by Councilperson _____ duly seconded by Councilperson _____, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Judy Drake –

Councilperson Christine Montague –

Supervisor Ruth Groff –

Councilperson Laurie Hemmings –

Councilperson Joseph Wetmore –

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolution was approved, carried, and duly adopted on September 17, 2025.

**Intermunicipal Wastewater Agreement Partners
c/o Rod Howe, Supervisor
Town of Ithaca
215 North Tioga Street
Ithaca, NY 14850**

DATE

Via US Mail, and Email as available

Carol Lamb-Lafay
Acting Deputy Commissioner
Water Resources
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 4th Floor
Albany, NY 12233

DRAFT

Dear Acting Deputy Commissioner Lamb-Lafay,

We write collectively as the elected leadership of the six municipal signatories to the 2003 Intermunicipal Wastewater Agreement, who are either owners of, or wastewater contributors to, the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (IAWWTF). Having been authorized by our respective legislative bodies to do so, we hereunder state our strong opposition to the SPDES permit modifications proposed by NYSDEC on the grounds that the assumed violations they are designed to mitigate have not been proven to exist, as required by the TMDL process outlined in NYSDEC technical guidance, and that the unprecedented costs associated with compliance would be financially burdensome to our ratepayers while yielding little to no environmental benefit. We encourage the Department to focus the State's limited resources on mitigating the proven phosphorus and sediment-related impairments that have been apparent for decades but that continue to persist.

Background

The Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (IAWWTF) located at the south end of Cayuga Lake is a 13.1 million gallons-per-day (MGD) capacity treatment plant owned and operated by the City of Ithaca, the Town of Ithaca and the Town of Dryden. The facility also receives sewer flow indirectly from the Village of Cayuga Heights, the Village of Lansing, and the Town of Lansing.

IAWWTF owners are currently developing a long-term capital improvement project (CIP). As originally envisioned, owners expected to retain conventional biological

treatment, while focusing on modernization and replacement of aged and failing infrastructure. The preliminary estimate of costs related to capital improvements ranged from 60 and 100 million dollars, depending on the chosen design. Costs will be divided among owners, based on predetermined share, with a portion offset by anticipated water quality improvement grants. Some of the costs will eventually be proportionally passed through to non-owner users via independently negotiated agreements.

Proposed Permit Modifications and Costs

Without any corroborative ambient water quality sampling, biological sampling, evaluation of point and non-point sources, or scientific analysis of the assimilative capacity of the receiving water, NYSDEC is now proposing to add SPDES permit limitations for ammonia and nitrite, based on limited effluent data and devised using numerical standards that are designed to ensure the “protection of aquatic life.” However, the membrane bioreactor technology required to meet the proposed permit limits would add 100 million dollars to the project cost, which would have an enormous, unsustainable, and unjustifiable impact on ratepayers in the stakeholder municipalities for decades to come.

DRAFT

NYSDEC Technical Guidance Requires a Wholistic Pollution Control Approach

The technical guidance document cited by permit writers to underpin the Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (WQBEL) for nitrite and ammonia (“TOGS 1.3.1”) specifies that WQBEL permit limits must be devised in conjunction with a TMDL process similar to the one that was recently completed for phosphorous. By any plain reading, that process must quantify the sources of ammonia and nitrite in the south segment of the lake (an approximately 1.4 square-mile area south of McKinney’s Point) and determine the segment’s ability to assimilate the substances proposed for limitation. Only then could an alleged violation be confirmed or disproven, sources identified, and mitigation strategies appropriately weighted.

The aforementioned TMDL for ammonia and nitrite has not been undertaken, nor contemplated, by NYSDEC, and any analysis that relies on additional segmentation of the lake runs counter to the Department’s own guidance for waterbody segmentation. The “Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology,” published in 2023, provides a regulatory framework for waterbody segmentation. It specifically states that *“Some very large lakes, like Lake Champlain and the Finger Lakes are segmented in multiple assessment units based on classification.”*

NYSDEC does not propose a change in “classification” in the waters surrounding the mixing zone. Instead it proposes a tiny new waterbody segment immediately surrounding the zone, and appears to be contending that the TMDL process was followed for the newly created zone. Similarly, the “reasonable potential analysis” relied upon by NYSDEC in its SPDES Permit Fact Sheet to indicate that statistical modeling is potentially *predictive* of a violation, is itself part of the TMDL process, not a substitute for

one. TOGS 1.3.1 plainly states that “*The TMDL process... **provides the basis for a "reasonable potential" analysis**; that is, does the proposed discharge of a pollutant have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an excursion of water quality standards. ***If the answer is "yes", the TMDL process is then used to determine the WQBELs for all sources of that pollutant to assure compliance with water quality standards.***”*

On a macro level, NYSDEC specifically dismissed nitrogen (nitrate) as a primary cause of impairment in Cayuga Lake as recently as 2024 in its TMDL for phosphorus, and did not make any recommendations regarding ammonia or nitrite. Coming to a statistically-based conclusion that anything short of complete nitrification at a wastewater treatment plant equals a water quality standards violation does not demonstrate that an applicable narrative best-use-based standards violation exists.

As mentioned, the proposed permit limits are being devised with the objective of “the protection of aquatic life.” However, there has been no corroborative biological monitoring nor anecdotal evidence to suggest that organisms are under stress outside the mixing zone (which, itself, has not been delineated). To the contrary, available data indicates that annual inventories at the Cayuga Inlet fish ladder have not decreased in population or size, and angler surveys show extremely high satisfaction with fishing in the lake. In addition, synoptic dissolved oxygen sampling at four south-segment locations analyzed over the past 15 years by Community Science Institute reveals that levels in the south lake are quite high (approaching 9 mg/l) and consistent throughout the segment, displaying no localized variation or decline at the point-source discharge monitoring locations, generally indicating an overall healthy environment for aquatic life.

The assumptions underpinning the Department’s proposed modifications are particularly concerning because they are purely theoretical and based on hypothetical variables such as a dilution ratio and mixing zone dimensions that not only cannot be traced to their mathematical origins, but have likely not been revisited since IAWWTF was rerated from 10 MGD to 13.1 MGD. It is not clear how NYSDEC would spatialize a new waterbody segment surrounding a mixing zone without first delineating the shape or boundaries of the zone through any quantifiable scientific processes.

Past Research Supports Retaining Conventional Treatment Technology

IAWWTF owners commissioned a comprehensive study in the mid-80’s to determine whether its then-redesigned discharge would result in harmful levels of ammonia outside the mixing zone. The study, conducted by Environmental Scientist, Liz Moran, concluded that, “*The analysis demonstrates that even under ‘worst case’ conditions, the concentrations of un-ionized ammonia in the south end of the lake will not create toxic conditions for fish outside of an acceptable mixing zone. Therefore, the new lake outfall*

of the upgraded and rebuilt Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility is not creating unacceptable water quality conditions."

Subsequent to the study, the plant was rerated from 10 MGD to 13.1 MGD. It is likely that current mixing zone and dilution assumptions have not been adjusted to account for the increase in maximum allowable flow. However, with the exception of phosphorus (which has been greatly reduced), IAWWTF effluent parameters are similar to those that existed during Ms. Moran's study period. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that her general findings are worth investigating today.

Conclusion

IAWWTF owners and users wholly support efforts to maintain and improve water quality in Cayuga Lake. To that end, IAWWTF owners voluntarily invested in tertiary phosphorus treatment in 2003, long before the TMDL for phosphorus was developed, and area municipalities continue to collaborate to utilize vital wastewater infrastructure in an efficient, regional approach. We urge the Department to avoid high cost-benefit-ratio regulatory practices that would inadvertently disincentivize regional wastewater management and encourage the proliferation of septic systems and sprawl development.

Municipalities and ratepayers encourage the efficient use of resources to advance the goals of the TMDL for Phosphorus in Cayuga Lake, including the establishment of riparian buffers, streambank stabilization, and greater investment in agricultural best management practices. Given the enormous cost and questionable environmental benefit of the potential permit modification, stakeholders will continue to advocate for the prioritization of solving the problems that were quantified and published by NYSDEC following decades of research, and oppose the diversion of finite assets to address issues that have either not been identified, not been confirmed, or were dismissed outright as non-problematic during the development of the phosphorus TMDL. We urge NYSDEC to abide by its most comprehensive regulatory procedures, which were created to ensure implementation of, and compliance with, state and federal environmental law.

NYSDEC must determine whether the IAWWTF discharge is causing or contributing to water-quality standards violations related to ammonia and nitrite by following its own TMDL process. A permit modification with a price tag of 100 million dollars, based solely on theoretical modeling in the absence of field corroboration, mandated while known impairments continue to go unaddressed, is environmentally questionable and financially prejudicial, particularly to the many disadvantaged and underserved communities reliant on IAWWTF.

We look forward to collaborating on thorough, sensible solutions that balance evidence-based regulatory practices with real-world financial realities and implementation constraints.

Respectfully,

Date:_____

Robert Cantelmo, Mayor
City of Ithaca

Date:_____

Linda Woodard, Mayor
Village of Cayuga Heights

Date:_____

Rod Howe, Supervisor
Town of Ithaca

Date:_____

Ronny Hardaway, Mayor
Village of Lansing

Date:_____

Jason Leifer, Supervisor
Town of Dryden

Date:_____

Ruth Groff, Supervisor
Town of Lansing

Cc;

- Amanda Lefton, Commissioner, NYSDEC
- Anthony Luisi, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, NYSDEC
- Dereth Glance, Director, NYSDEC Region 7
- Monica Moss, Section Chief, North Section, NYSDEC
- Thomas Vigneault, Water Resources Specialist, NYSDEC Region 7
- The Honorable Anna Kelles, Assemblymember, 125th Assembly District
- The Honorable Lea Web, New York State Senator, 52nd Senate District
- The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF LANSING SUPERVISOR TO SIGN MUNICIPAL COALITION LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO NYSDEC-PROPOSED ITHACA AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY PERMIT MODIFICATIONS, AND IN SUPPORT OF STATE INVESTMENT IN WATER QUALITY MITIGATIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE “CAYUGA LAKE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD FOR PHOSPHORUS.”

RESOLUTION 25-

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF LANSING SUPERVISOR TO SIGN MUNICIPAL COALITION LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO NYSDEC-PROPOSED ITHACA AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY PERMIT MODIFICATIONS, AND IN SUPPORT OF STATE INVESTMENT IN WATER QUALITY MITIGATIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE “CAYUGA LAKE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD FOR PHOSPHORUS.”

WHEREAS, the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (IAWWTF), located at the south end of Cayuga Lake, is a 13.1 million gallons-per-day-capacity treatment plant owned and operated by the City of Ithaca, the Town of Ithaca and the Town of Dryden; and,

WHEREAS, The Town of Lansing indirectly utilizes treatment at IAWWTF, through an agreement with the Village of Cayuga Heights and,

WHEREAS, IAWWTF owners are currently engaged in the planning phase of a multi-year capital improvement project (CIP), focusing on the modernization and replacement of aged and failing infrastructure, with out-of-pocket costs divided among owners and passed through to non-owner-users, including the Town of Lansing, via independently negotiated agreements based on usage; and,

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is proposing discharge permit modifications to include limits for ammonia and nitrite, which can be harmful to aquatic life in high concentrations; and,

WHEREAS, the aforementioned modifications are being considered solely based on modeling and have not been corroborated by ambient water quality and biological monitoring near the IAWWTF discharge or elsewhere in the southern Cayuga Lake waterbody segment; and,

WHEREAS, the membrane bioreactor technology required to meet the proposed permit limit for nitrite would add 100 million dollars to the cost of the original CIP, which would impose an enormous, unsustainable, and unjustifiable financial burden on ratepayers in the stakeholder municipalities, including the Town of Lansing, for the indefinite future and would achieve limited, if any, environmental benefit; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lansing, having reviewed the attached letter authored on behalf of the six municipal signatories to the 2003 Intermunicipal Wastewater

Agreement, supports the positions and recommendations articulated therein, and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign in representation of this body.

The question of the adoption of such proposed Resolution was duly motioned by Councilperson _____ duly seconded by Councilperson _____, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Judy Drake –

Councilperson Christine Montague –

Supervisor Ruth Groff –

Councilperson Laurie Hemmings –

Councilperson Joseph Wetmore –

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolution was approved, carried, and duly adopted on September 17, 2025.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilperson _____ moved to **ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS**

AT _____ PM.

Councilperson _____ seconded the motion.

All in Favor – Opposed –

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilperson _____ moved to **EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT _____ PM.**

Councilperson _____ seconded the motion.

All in Favor – Opposed –

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Councilperson _____ moved to **ADJOURN THE MEETING AT _____ PM.**

Councilperson _____ seconded the motion.

All in Favor – Opposed –